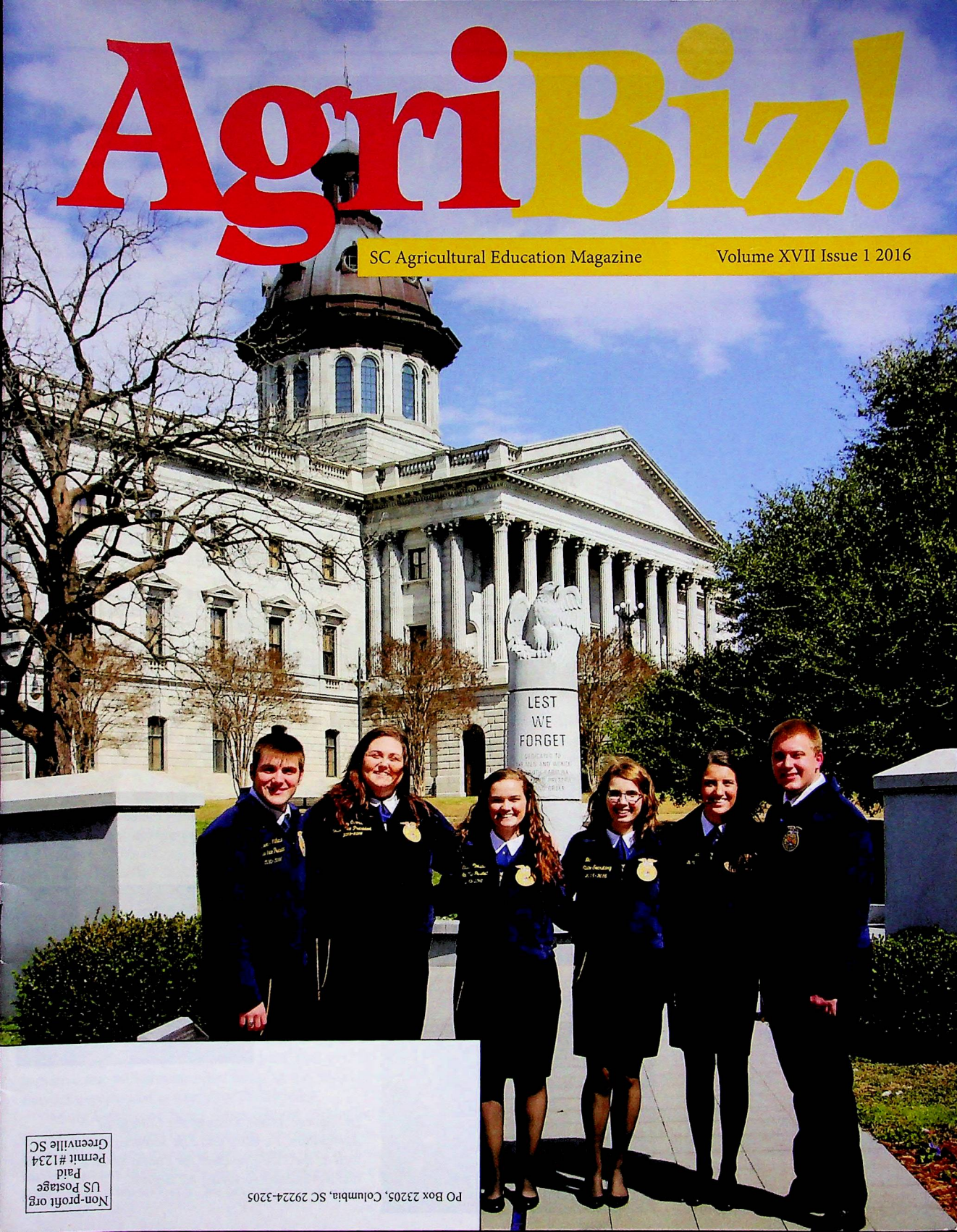
AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine Volume XVII Issue 1 2016



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Please visit our website at: **www.SCAgEd.org**

Commissioner Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, with the State FFA Officers.

Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens meets with the state officers

State Representative David R. Hiott, of Pickens County Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee, presenting the Resolution.

Honorary Degree Recipients

State President Katie Martin presents the degree to Melanie Barton, Director of Policy Development and Evaluations on the SC Education Oversight Committee.

The Honorable James 'Jay" Lucas, Speaker of the House of Representatives of South Carolina receives his degree.

Dr. George Askew, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences as well as the Vice-President for Public Service and Agriculture receiving his degree.

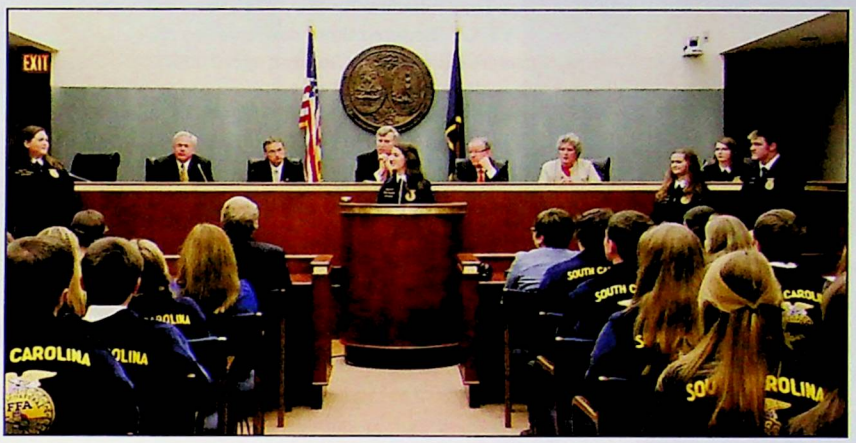
2016 FFA Legislative Appreciation Day

Contributed by Keith Cox

Portions from Clemson Extension Press Release by Denise Attaway

South Carolina FFA Members are putting agriculture first which leads legislators to believe the state's future is in "good hands."

FFA Members from all over South Carolina gathered at the state capitol in February for the annual FFA Legislators Appreciation Day. The members met with state legislators to discuss the future of the state's agriculture industry, as well as immediate needs.



"We are meeting with our legislators to learn about what they do on a daily basis," said FFA President Katie Martin of Pendleton. "We also want to learn about any current legislation they are working on as related to South Carolina agriculture."

Gene Hogan, research director for Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Sen. Daniel Verdin, said he was honored to be able to speak to FFA members who "…will be the adults making the decisions that will direct the state's future."

"Agriculture is the largest industry in the state," Hogan said. "It contributes $42 billion to the state's economy every year. Agriculture affects everyone and it's our responsibility to see that agriculture is protected so that everyone benefits."

In a meeting with Rep. David Hiott (R-Pickens), the state FFA officers discussed a farm aid bill designed to help South Carolina farmers who were financially devastated following the October-2015 flood.

"This bill will allow farmers who lost 40 percent of their crops to apply for $100,000 in state assistance," said Hiott, chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. "This money will help South Carolina farmers buy seed and other things they need to get crops in their fields this year. If the farmers lose their crops, who's going to feed us?"

"Passage of this bill is needed to help our farmers be able to plant their crops this next year and go on with their farming following last year's devastating floods," Brandon Myers, State FFA Vice President from Lexington said. "Hopefully this bill will pass and we'll have good news for our farmers."

In another discussion about farm aid, Hugh Weathers, South Carolina commissioner of agriculture, talked to the FFA members about Plant it Forward, an initiative designed to provide farmers funds to help cover a portion of their seed costs for 2016. The initiative also will provide relief funds for hay losses livestock farmers experienced as a result of the flooding.

"Many farmers are facing unprecedented challenges this year," Weathers said. "Direct crop losses are estimated to be more than $300 million. Crop insurance only covers a third of these costs, leaving farmers to pay for the rest. When farmers take a hit, there is a ripple effect – we all feel it. We have to do what we can to ensure our farmers have what they need to overcome the losses they experienced last year and are able to be productive this year."

Commissioner Weathers also, presented the Governors Proclamation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of Governor Haley. This was in recognition of National FFA Week February 20-27, 2016.

State Senator Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and State Representative David R. Hiott, of Pickens County, Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee, both gave remarks to the FFA members in attendance and presented a Concurrent Resolution of Recognition and Commendation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of all the members of the SC General Assembly.

Other activities for the day included presenting George Askew, Clemson vice president of Public Service and Agriculture, an Honorary State FFA Degree. The purpose of the honorary degree is to recognize individuals who have given outstanding service to agricultural education and the FFA program.

"This (degree) is quite an honor," Askew said. "I want to thank you for this and for your service to South Carolina agriculture. When I see blue jackets come to campus, I know agriculture will remain strong in this state, in this nation. I have complete faith agriculture is going to be strong because of people like you."

The "blue jackets" Askew referred to are blue corduroy jackets that have been worn by FFA members since the 1930s.

Speaker James 'Jay" Lucas, Speaker of the House of Representatives of South Carolina and Ms. Melanie Barton the Director of Policy Development and Evaluations on the SC Education Oversight Committee were presented the Honorary American FFA Degree. This degree is reserved for those individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty to promote and support the mission of the FFA at the local, state and national levels.

The 2015-2016 state FFA officers conducted the ceremony at the Blatt office building. They are: Katie Martin, State President, from the Pendleton Chapter; Blair Horton, State Secretary from the McBee Chapter; Thomas Wilkerson, State Vice President from the York Chapter; Brandon Myers, State Vice President from the Pelion Chapter; Candace Clinkscales, State Vice President from the Belton Honea - Path Chapter; and Kelly Coons, State Vice President from Aiken Chapter

The week of George Washington's birthday was designated as National FFA Week in 1947 at a National FFA Board of Directors meeting. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Washington's Birthday.

Anderson Young Farmer Advisor, Jay Copelan was named the SCYFAA Advisor of the Year. SCYFAA President, Mac McLeod (L), presents Jay (R) a plaque and an all expenses paid trip to Tampa, FL for the 2017 NYFEA Institute.

Saluda was named the SCYFAA Chapter of the Year. This award is sponsored by Angel Agribusiness Insurance and Randy Hope was there to present the award on their behalf.

From Left to Right: Randy Hope, Advisor Amanda Crouch, Chapter President Shane Herron.

Lauren's Young Farmer President, Tim Faulker, was named the Chapter President of the Year and he also received an Outstanding Service award from the SCYFAA. The Laurens Chapter was also named the Piedmont Regional Chapter of the Year.

From left to right. Chapter Advisor Annette Bodie, Tim Faulkner, Chapter Advisor Kyle Penland.

Young Farmers Hold Awards Ceremony

Contributed by Tim Keown

This year, the SCYFAA had an awards luncheon at the beautiful Phillips Market Center, which is located on the grounds of the South Carolina Farmers Market. The program was abbreviated this year due to the recent National Young Farmer Institute that the SCYFAA hosted. Award winners from every region of the state were in attendance, along with their advisors, to receive recognition.

During the business meeting, Jay Copelan, gave a great report on the Anderson County Summer Tour, which they hosted in 2015. Kelsey Anderson and Lee Petitgout then announced the Summer Tour schedule for the 2016 event, which will be held in York County.

The SCYFAA chartered three new chapters. Kershaw County Young Farmers, Tyger River Young Farmers (Greenville County), and Bush River Young Farmers (Newberry County). They were welcomed to our Association by Mac McLeod, past president of the SCYFAA.

Make plans to join us for the 2017 SCYFAA Convention, which will be held at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach on January 20-21, 2017.

Outstanding Service Award
Tim Faulkner - Laurens County Chapter.
John Weathers - Sumter County Chapter.

Energy Efficiency Award
James Miskelly - York Chapter

Non-irrigated Corn:
State winner – Dan Gause East Clarendon Chapter
Yield - 268.556 bu/ac
Variety - Pioneer P2089YHR

1st runner up – William Thomas - East Clarendon Chapter
Yield - 236.4 bu/ac
Variety - Pioneer P2089YHR

Irrigated Corn:
State Winner – William Jameson - Edisto Chapter
Yield - 310.0849 bu/ac
Variety - Pioneer P1303 HR variety.

Non-irrigated Soybeans:
State winner – Dan Gause - East Clarendon Chapter
Yield - 62.893 bu/ac
Variety - Pioneer P76T54R2

1st runner up – William Thomas - East Clarendon Chapter
Yield - 58.002 bu/ac
Variety - Pioneer P76T54R2

Small Grain
State Winner – Brad Elliott - Horry County Chapter wheat
Yield - 58.085 bu/ac
Variety - Southern States 86-11

Cotton
State Winner – Clark Stillinger - Edisto Chapter
Yield - 746.89 lbs/ac
Variety - Stoneville 4946 variety.

Peanuts
State winner - Clark Stillinger - Edisto Chapter
Yield - 6414.833 lbs/ac
Variety - Bailey

1st runner up - Brad Elliott
Yield - 3167.777 lbs/ac
Variety - Bailey

Farm Shop
Rickey McDaniel - Sumter County Chapter

Horticulture
John Weathers - Sumter County Chapter

Beef Production
Dr. Brian Bolt - Anderson Chapter

Chapter President of the Year sponsored by Nationwide Insurance
Pee Dee Region Winner - Clark Burrows - Sumter County chapter.

State Winner is Tim Faulkner - Laurens County chapter

Chapter of the Year
Pee Dee Region Chapter of the Year - Sumter County Chapter
Advisor - Steve Sanderson
President - Clark Burrows.

Mid-State Region Chapter of the Year - The Saluda Young Farmers

Piedmont Region Chapter of the Year - Laurens County Chapter
Advisors - Annette Bodie, Melanie Birchmore, and Kyle Penland.
President - Tim Faulkner.

Advisor of the Year
State Advisor of the Year- Jay Copelan – Anderson Chapter

Mid-State Advisor of the Year - Jesse Miskelly – York Chapter

Agribusiness Person of the Year, sponsored by Arbor One
Agribusiness Person of the Year - David Simmons - East Clarendon Chapter

1st Runner Up - Shane Herron - Saluda Chapter

Farmer of the Year, sponsored by AgSouth
Farmer of the Year - Chris Derrick - Edgefield Chapter

1st Runner Up - Stan McKenzie - East Clarendon Chapter

2016 SCYFAA Executive Committee
Vice President - Piedmont Region – Tim Faulkner
Vice President - Mid-State Region – Stanley Rawl
Vice President - Pee Dee Region – David Simmons
Vice President - Lower State Region – Andrew Fanning
Past-President/Treasurer – Mac McLeod
President Elect – Tim Kelley
President – Jay Fanning

Christopher Derrick Is SCYFAA Farmer of the Year

Contributed by Tim Keown

Karen Baxley, AgSouth representative, presents Christopher Derrick a plaque and a check for $500

Edgefield County Young Farmer member, Christopher Derrick, was recently named the Outstanding Farmer in South Carolina by the SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association.

Christopher, a fourth generation farmer, who began working on the farm at an early age, became a full partner in the operation after he completed his BS in Business Technology. He is currently farming over 1200 acres in Edgefield County. Derrick Farms grow 150 acres of corn, 400 acres of soybeans, 175 acres of grain, 200 acres of hay, and 275 acres of pasture for their 150 head beef herd.

Christopher states, "Considering I am the 4th generation of our farming operation, there have been many changes and advancements over the decades. Since I have been more involved over the past ten years, there have been many facility improvements at Derrick Farms to ensure safety and progression." Farm safety is one of the major goals for Derrick Farms as he realizes the day-to-day dangers that a farmer can encounter.

Since Christopher returned to the farm, there have been many additions to the farm. They have added four broiler houses, new grain storage bins, new equipment sheds, two new manure sheds, a new pond contracted for irrigation purposes, and added more automated irrigation systems across the farm. He also uses new agricultural technology such as a Trimble GPS system for precision rate and planting control.

He currently serves as the treasurer of the Edgefield County Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter. He is also active on the Strom Thurmond Career & Technology Center Agricultural Education Advisory Council, the Edgefield County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and the Edgefield County Extension Advisory Committee. He is also active in Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church where he and his family attend.

Christopher was presented a cash award and engraved plaque in Charleston by Karen Baxley, Regional Vice President of AgSouth Farm Credit who sponsors the award for the Farmer of the Year.

Jeremy Brooks and Dr. Darla Steele, Agricultural Education instructors at Strom Thurmond Career & Technology Center, serve as the professional advisors to the Edgefield County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

David Simmons Is SCYFAA Agribusiness Person of the Year

Contributed by Tim Keown

From Left to right. Don Boice with Arbor One, David Simmons (Agribusiness Person of the Year), Former Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, Owner of Agrowstar

East Clarendon Young Farmer member, David Simmons, was recently named the Agribusiness Person of the Year in South Carolina by the SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association.

David is the manager for Agrowstar which is a company based in Georgia. They also own three grain elevators in South Carolina and David oversees the operation for those locations. Agrowstar has 1.3 million bushels of storage for corn, wheat, and soybeans. They also have approximately 2 million bushels in direct shipment of commodity sales.

David has worked extremely hard to ensure that Agrowstar is an agribusiness that uses the most recent technology to remain competitive in their marketing and accounting aspects of the business. David states, "Our company has made recent upgrades to our grain accounting systems allowing for faster access to meet the needs of our customers in a timely manner. The new software also allows our customers to access their account information 24/7.

Since acquiring the Lynchburg, SC location, Agrowstar has dramatically increased their business. From 2011-2012, they had a net gain of 40% in business. In 2013-2014, they saw a net gain of 30% in business. The Kingstree, SC location saw a 100% increase in business compared to the years before they acquired the location. David will also be managing the Conway, SC facility which they recently purchased.

David's mode of operation is very simple. He believes that good business is not just looking at the numbers of growth or profit. He wants the overall customer satisfaction to be 100% so that they will always return to his facility to do their business. David works with his customers to make sure they fully understand the grain markets, which will help make the farmers profitable.

David was presented a cash award and engraved plaque in Columbia by Don Boice, Regional Vice President of Arbor One Farm Credit who sponsors the award for the Agribusiness Person of the Year.

Bert Beasley, Agricultural Education instructor at East Clarendon High School, serves as the professional advisor to the East Clarendon Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

89th State Convention Is Announced By State FFA Officers

On behalf of the 2015-16 State Officer Team, I would like to announce that the 89th Annual State FFA Convention will take place at Clemson University, June 8-10, 2016. The business and general sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

The first general session will begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, June 8th, with an official welcome to Clemson University by President James P. Clements, President of Clemson University. Outstanding FFA chapters will be recognized as National Chapter winners in the Superior, Bronze Emblem, Silver Emblem and Gold Emblem categories, and a number of scholarships will be awarded. Among the highlights of Wednesday evening's session is our keynote speaker Judson Laipply, Award-Winning Speaker and Inspirational Comedian. Judson Laipply promises to do two things: make you laugh and make you think.

On Thursday, June 9th, the state finals in eight Career Development Events (CDEs) will be conducted in the morning, and the second general session will begin at 1:30 PM with the recognition of state champions in CDEs held during the school year. We will also be confirming State FFA Degrees to our best members. The FFA Stars over South Carolina Ceremony will recognize regional and state stars in farming, agribusiness and agricultural placement. A number of Honorary State Degrees will also be presented to friends and supporters of the FFA. The closing session on Friday morning will include the announcement of state winners in Career Development Events held during the convention, other recognition programs and, of course, the election of the 2016-17 State FFA Officer team.

We hope you all are as excited about State Convention as we are! As you prepare for our festivities in Clemson, I hope you remember to #AmplifySCFFA. Whether you are preparing for CDEs, running for state office, or just getting amped for convention, we encourage you to find ways to amplify in your communities. My teammates and I have been blessed to serve you this year and we cannot wait to see you at the 89th Annual South Carolina FFA Convention! So pack your bags, bring your excitement, and get ready to AMPLIFY!

Katie Martin
2015-16 SC FFA State President

SCAAE Host Annual State Plant Presentation

Contributed by Tim Keown

Each year in April, the South Carolina Association of Agricultural Educators (SCAAE) and the South Carolina FFA Association organize the "Plant Presentation Ceremony" on the State House steps to demonstrate their support and appreciation for the state of South Carolina.

Many of the Agricultural Education programs in South Carolina teach several units of Horticulture and/or Plant Science. Greenhouse management is a major educational component of their curriculum and students are taught how to produce plants as a portion of their coursework. The plants are sold to their local communities to help financially support the local Agricultural Education program as well as provide plants to homeowners or local businesses at an affordable cost.

In 2001, Mr. Pat Black, then the Agricultural Education Teacher at Branchville High School, presented an idea to the SC Agricultural Educators to take a portion of these plants and donate them to the State of South Carolina to help beautify the Statehouse and other state owned facilities throughout Columbia. Since 2001, thousands of flats of plants have been donated to the State. According to Dennis Haigler, leader of the Horticulture Board, the plants are used at state buildings located around the city. Haigler stated, "Receiving the plants is like Christmas for my team."

Senator Paul Campbell, member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and David Hiott, Chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee both addressed the crowd. Ron Roveri, South Carolina Director of Career and Technology Education, gave remarks and indicated that he is a huge supporter of the South Carolina FFA organization and praised the FFA members and teachers for their hard work growing the plants. South Carolina's Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, Martin Eubanks, accepted the beautiful plants on behalf of the State of South Carolina.

Greenhand Camp was "Activated" in February

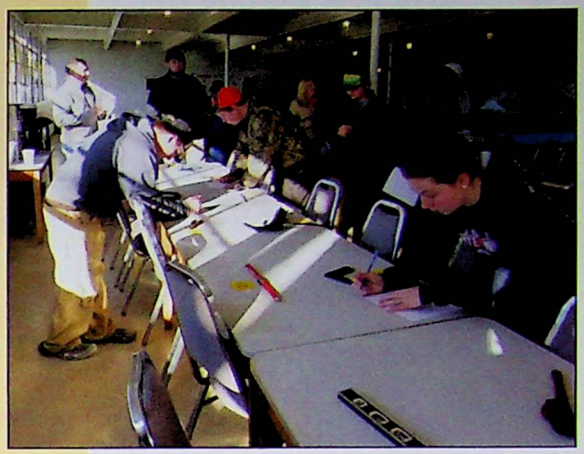
Contributed by Keith Cox

Eleven chapters gave some FFA members their first experience of attending the FFA Camp at Cherry Grove during Greenhand Camp. They spent the weekend with the State Officers learning about the different opportunities and fun the FFA offers.

The members started out with a getting to know you activity with the State Officers on Friday morning that was followed by some workshops on opportunities that they will have in the FFA. After lunch they were able to share some fun activities with their new friends at Wonder Works. Wonder Works is an interactive attraction combining education and affordable, quality entertainment that is fun for all ages! The Advisors had fun also.

The members also learned about CDE's such as Wildlife, Creed, Tool ID and others, by competing in some mini CDE's conducted by the advisors and State Officers. Another activity that is associated with the FFA is the Banquet. The members worked throughout the weekend to develop a "mock" banquet. So on Saturday night the "Cherry Grove Chapter" had a banquet once again. The members of the camp did all parts, awards, serving of the meal and decorating.

Members had a great time afterwards warming around campfire and playing dodge ball in the gym. Friendships were formed and can be renewed at the many opportunities the FFA offers.



2016 FFA Equine Camp

Contributed by Billy Keels

The second annual FFA Equine Camp was a huge success. The camp held in March had so many requests for attendance that the camp staff had to put a cap on registrations. Those lucky enough to attend were treated to some outstanding educational programs as well as two trail rides.

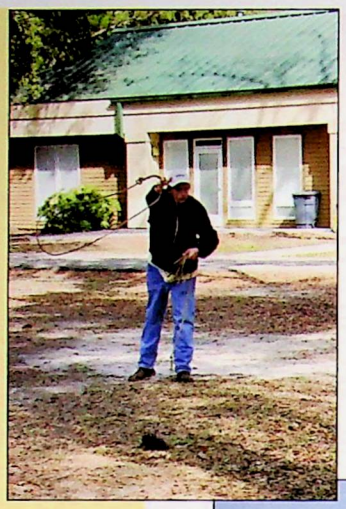
The educational programs were highlighted by programs provided by Clemson staff and volunteers to include a local veterinarian and a farrier. Students were provided instruction on roping, tack and equipment as well as information on the FFA Equine Contest.

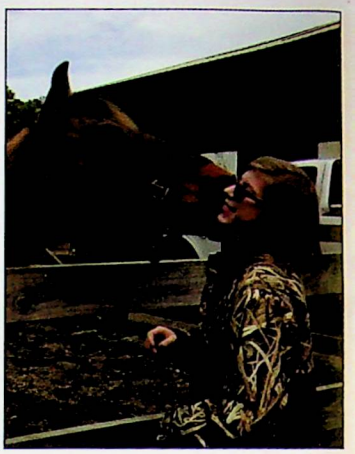
Campers had an opportunity to participate in both an inland and beach trail ride. The trail rides were conducted by local stables, utilizing professional and experienced guides.

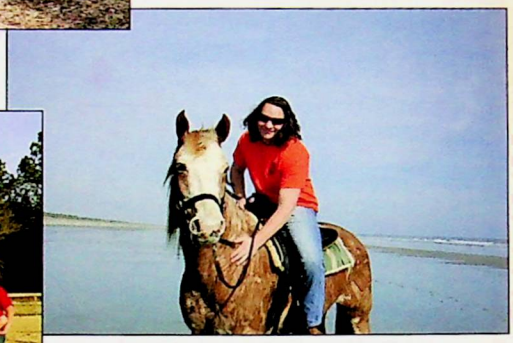
In addition, the campers were treated to a vaulting demonstration where some had the opportunity to practice some vaulting exercises on some of the training equipment.

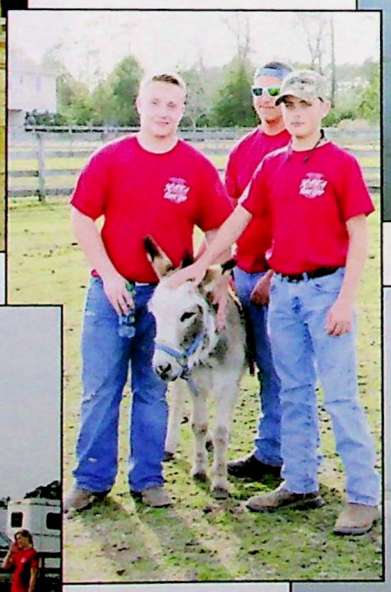
Campers concluded the camp with a trip to Medieval Times where they had the opportunity to observe some expert horsemanship while enjoying dinner and the show.

The FFA Equine Camp is held annually to provide students with the opportunity to learn about horses, proper horsemanship and equipment and handling. Students with all levels of horse proficiency are encouraged to attend.









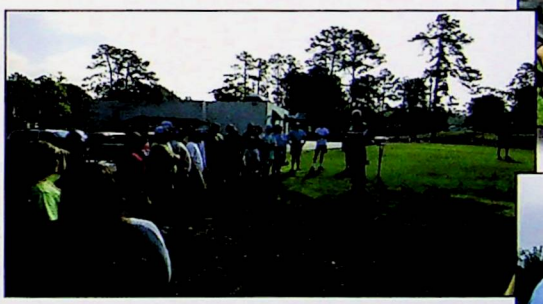
Horticulture Camp

Contributed by Tim Keown

FFA Members had an opportunity to learn about the horticulture and turfgrass industry in South Carolina in one of the prime areas for landscaping and the golf industry in the state, Myrtle Beach.

The camp began with a tour of Horry Georgetown Technical College and their well renowned Turf Department. Then, they were able to tour the beautiful Brookgreen Gardens. Campers had the opportunity to take a behind the scenes look at the maintenance of the sports fields of the Myrtle Beach Pelicans. They then got to see the prepared fields in action by attending a Pelicans baseball game. Waylon Priester, advisor at Aiken High School, threw out the first pitch!

The landscaping industry was covered through a trip to Sunbelt Landscaping in Myrtle Beach. Sunbelt is one of the largest Landscape companies in the Myrtle Beach. The owner of Sunbelt is Ken Watson, a former FFA member. Mr. Watson spoke to the campers about the landscaping industry and provided them with a tour of Evergreen Partners Nursery. The campers then played a round of golf at the Cane Patch Par-3 course. The camp concluded at Pirates Voyage for dinner and a show.



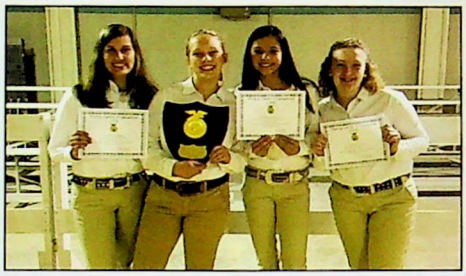
Tool ID – Aynor: Kelly Coons (FFA State Officer), Blair Horton (FFA State Officer), Christian Johnson, Nathan Adams, Cole Vaught, Ethan Gore, Dawson Richardson, Brandon Myers (FFA State Officer), and Candace Clinkscales (FFA State Officer)

Forestry – Gilbert: Lewis King, Kathleen Baker, Marshall Hallman, Kasch Frick, Derrick Cooper (Advisor)

Wildlife Team 2016 – Pendleton: Justin Allen, Leah Burdette, Kaylee Wooten, Kennedy Harrison, Brayley Atkins, Blake Berry (Advisor)

Nursery Landscape – Lexington Richland 5: Kevin Sox (Advisor), Austin Cathcard, Logan Clapham, Jacob Cathcart, Matthew Bonnete, Katie Martin (FFA State Officer), Kelly Coons (FFA State Officer)

Livestock Judging – BHP: Candace Clinkscales (State Officer), Katie Martin (State Officer), Shay Terrell, Kaitlin Richey, Marti Leake, Conner Durham, Glenn Stevens (Advisor), Kelly Coons (State Officer), Thomas Wilkerson (State Officer)



Dairy Judging – Clover: Catherine Faulkner, Anna Dulin, Skylar Ferguson, Emma Hansen

Poultry Judging – Lexington Richland 5: Candace Clinkscales (FFA State Officer), Kylie Cathcart, Reagan Reynolds, Brooke Blankenship, Katie Martin (FFA State Officer), Kelly Coons (FFA State Officer)

Dairy Handler – Crescent: Roger Estridge, Graylin Christenbury, Kelly Coons (FFA State Officer), Katie Martin (FFA State Officer)

Milk Quality and Products – Seneca: Kelly Coons (FFA State Officer), Candace Clinkscales (FFA State Officer), Chandani Patel, Eliana Lord, Haley Cole, Garner Powell, Katie Martin (FFA State Officer), Thomas Wilkerson (FFA State Officer)

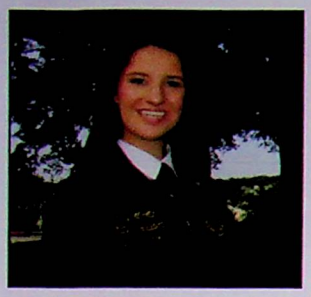
Agricultural Mechanics – Lexington Richland 5: Kevin Sox (Advisor), Mason Williams, Tanner Long, Blair Stutts, Steven Whitaker, and Blair Horton (FFA State Officer)

Floriculture – Pendleton: Clayton Partain, Tykeria Porter, Cathryn Merriman, Sydney Gambrell, Blake Berry (Advisor)

Clemson Collegiate FFA Activities

Interested in continuing the FFA experience after high school? Looking for opportunities to engage in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success? Then Clemson Collegiate FFA is for you! Open to all majors at Clemson University! Yearly activities include:

- Monthly Business and Recreational Meetings
- State and National FFA Convention
- Farm tours and field trips
- Attend all home football games
- Clemson Agriculture Tailgate
- First Friday Parade
- Host Spring Baseball Tailgate
- Cooking the Cocks Fundraiser
- Banquet
- Leadership Opportunities



Did you know that the Starr Iva Middle School FFA Chapter had their officially chartered ceremony on April 6, 2016? Mr. Brantley Caldwell is their advisor, and offers agriculture classes for 6th-8th graders and multiple FFA opportunities. The chapter's officer team is in charge of planning monthly meetings and other special events such as their upcoming Ag Olympics. The young chapter has participated in the Tool ID CDE and plans to compete in the Forestry CDE in May. SIMS FFA members are truly "living to serve" as they have helped with Crescent FFA's Rodeo and conducted a school-wide cleanup.

Did you know that the Beaufort-Jasper FFA Chapter held their annual plant sale and I got to help! They have a green house and a shade house that grow a variety of plants and vegetables. Students took turns assisting each customer with their purchase by writing their receipts, carrying plants to vehicles, and showing off their vast knowledge of each plant to help the customer make the right choice. A few of their other projects include puppy training, rescuing farm animals, and maintaining a container garden at the local nursing home. Their devoted members and advisor, Ms. Melton, maintain all.

Did you know that the Lexington-Richland 5 FFA Chapter has a school garden? They grow a wide range of fruits and vegetables. Some of the things they grow include leafy greens, strawberries, and broccoli. The broccoli that they grow is produced for the school cafeteria at Spring Hill High School. Even though they are one of the "newer" chapters in our state, they have a lot going on. They have some very active members and three (yes three) of the greatest agriculture teachers.

Did you know that Pickens County Career and Technology Center's FFA Chapter had an officer retreat last summer before the new school year began? This retreat was intended to build strong relationships among the officer team members while making long-lasting memories as well. Thomas and I had the opportunity to join the PCCTC FFA officer team in a cabin in the little town of Mountain Rest one afternoon. We had a blast working with the team in a workshop that focused on trust and teamwork. I hope the PCCTC FFA officer team had as much fun as I did.

Did you know that Mr. Busbee, the Advisor at Wagener-Salley High School chapter is a former member of the chapter? He is doing a great job keeping up the traditions that Wagener-Salley has had for a long time. I had the pleasure of attending their annual cook out and chapter ball game. Everyone had a great time with the activities and the time to have fun together. I wish the best for the Wagener-Salley FFA and Mr. Busbee as this new phase begins with their chapter.

Did you know that the Calhoun Falls FFA chapter sets up and re-enact a poverty dinner each year? They demonstrate the level of poverty that so many people, families, and individuals face each year that we may never even realize. This event demonstrates how so many things effect the way families live each year, and how one thing can immediately put someone in the poverty range. Personally, when I was able to visit and experience this first hand it was very special to see. I can honestly say I will never forget it, and I was truly blessed to be able to experience this.

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